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2/5/07

Serial No.: 09/706,194
Docket No. 60655.3500

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) In a computer system having a data input device, a data storage device, and a processor, a method for determining a travel scheme for minimizing travel costs for an organization, where the organization expects to purchase travel trips for a plurality of travelers for a plurality of predetermined travel links, each travel link comprising a travel origin and a travel destination, each travel link being served by at least one of a plurality of travel carriers, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining travel information relating to the carriers and the links via the data input device;

storing the travel information via the data storage device;

constructing an objective function from the travel information via the processor, the objective function representing a travel cost to the organization to purchase travel trips for the plurality of travelers for the plurality of predetermined links;

constructing a set of constraints from the travel information via the processor, the constraints comprising restrictions relating to the objective function;

applying the constraints to the objective function via the processor to determine a solution of the objective function that satisfies the constraints and that minimizes the travel costs of the organization;

applying the solution as the travel scheme for minimizing travel costs by purchasing travel trips in accordance with the solution; and,

generating output report data representative of the solution.

2. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein the obtaining travel information step comprises the steps of:

obtaining travel cost information for each link for each carrier serving the link;

obtaining demand and supply information pertaining to a projected demand for each link and a projected supply for each carrier; and

obtaining carrier goal information pertaining to any predetermined goal the organization has with respect to any of the carriers.

3. (Original) The computer system of claim 2 wherein the processor determines from the travel cost information for each link for each carrier serving the link a weighted value representing an actual cost to the organization for traveling the link using the carrier.